

## REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claim 12.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter, and that they would be allowable if they are placed into independent form. By the current amendment, Applicants amend claims 4 and 5 to include substantially all the subject matter of their base claim (e.g., claim 3), and consequently, cancel claim 3 from this application. In view of the present amendment to claims 4 and 5, Applicants believe that claims 4 and 5 are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request such an indication by the Examiner.

In order to advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants additionally cancel claim 11 in this application. However, the cancellation of claim 11 (along with claim 3) should not be taken as an acquiescence of the appropriateness of their rejection, but as a desire to advance the present application to issue. In this regard, Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit similar type claims in another application.

In view of the cancellation of claims 3 and 11, Applicants submit that only allowable claims 4, 5 and 12 remain pending, and thus, it is no longer necessary to discuss the rejections set forth in the last Office Action.

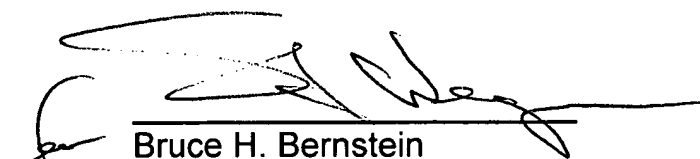
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
K. ANDO et al.

  
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Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman  
Reg. No. 31,438

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191